

## FLEET TAKES NEWPORT FORTS

# NIGHT ATTACK BY ADMIRAL

### Heavy Firing All Along the Line and the Eastern Passage Forced—Afternoon Attack Proved a Failure, a Landing

NEWPORT, R. I., Sept. 5.—Admiral Higginson, commanding the Auranian fleet, made an attack on Forts Adams, Wetherell and Greble at 10 o'clock to-night. There was heavy firing all along the line, and Admiral Higginson ran by the forts with five of his ships so quickly that it will be a marvel if the arbitrators who determine the result of the action do not give him an unqualified victory. It was the most brilliant action in dash and skill man ever performing all the week and furnished a

It had been the general expectation, after the desultory fighting of the afternoon, that there would be a night attack, but it is doubtful if any one of the forts thought it would come as soon as it did.

The searchlights were kept at work in a perfunctory way, however, and a little before 10 o'clock they picked up the ships standing in the harbor under a full head

The Brooklyn, that was supposed to have been somewhat seriously injured by striking an obstruction in New Bedford harbor the other day, was leading. Behind her came the famous Olympia of Manila days.

Then followed the Kearsage, Admiral Higginson's flagship; the Alabama, and the Massachusetts, which throughout the manoeuvres has made a proud record for herself.

They were steaming at better than ten knots, which perhaps accounts for the

absence of the Indiana from the column, the ship was not a factor for she is not in condition to make any speed.

At top speed they came on and held their fire until the forts opened on them. Instantly the Brooklyn replied with her forward turret guns. The range was then 3,900 yards. It was just 10 o'clock when the first fired with tremendous rapidity. The searchlights were kept constantly playing on the ships, but with this difference from the treatment that would be given to an actual enemy that they were not kept for any length of time upon the forward bridge, where the navigation lights.

The ships began to work their own searchlights as soon as the firing began. Each

ship kept one light on the one directly ahead of her and as they came on the glare of their lights mingling with the flashing of the guns, the firing up the whole became so intense that the men on both sides were dazzled. Each ship's main gun fired once and then the forts opened, firing with the starboard battery at Fort Adams and with the port battery at Fort Wetherell. It was a clear night with a heaven full of stars, and the play of the lights and the flashing of the guns was a sight to see.

As the ships passed in turn fairly between the two forts it seemed as if the efforts of both contestants were redoubled. The forts were firing with all the speed they could muster, but the game at such short range was against them, for the ships had the advantage at great advantage. A number of their guns were disabled, and the

The fighting tops of the battleships blazed on and the rapid-fire guns on the forts answered with a will. It was evident whenever the ships got so close before being fired upon that they had won the victory, for the forts had no high-angle guns, and the high fire points they could have both the forts put out before the forts could score enough to stop a single ship.

The ships came through the pass between the forts at their tremendous clip and steamed straight on up the bay. As they passed the forts, the overcast sky and the sea seemed to be on fire, and the forts ceased firing on the battleships as they went quit hammering at the forts. In less than twenty minutes it was all over. When they got up into the bay they turned on their running lights again and began play-

The flagship signalled them to remain in column. They went above Conanicut Island and there made a turn, coming down the bay again in the same order in which they went up. So they passed out again by the fortiers. They had run so successfully that they thought there were no shots fired. It was a daring conception and carried through superbly.

At midnight Army Headquarters here said: "We sank them all; it will take till next year to raise them. Fort Adams should have sent eight salvos from the mortar batteries."

In spite of this it appears to be a victory for the fleet. The ships were so soon within the minimum effective range of the mortars that most of Fort Adams's forty-eight

**AFTERNOON ATTACK FAILED.**  
Landing Party Replied—Naval Empire's Decision Disputed.

DESPATCH BOAT ANEMONE, OFF BRENTON'S REEF LIGHT, Sept. 5.—Rear Admiral Higginson's Red Aurarians began to-day what is believed to be the final phase of their attempt to get by the defences of the Narragansett and New London districts. The action which resulted was a disappointment from the spectacular point of view and could hardly be called conclusive, either for fleet or for forts.

It was about 8 o'clock this morning that the ships began to leave their anchorages off Block Island, where they had rendezvoused after the attacks of last night along the line of the defences of Long Island Sound. The battleships moved off slowly toward the north and were followed at intervals by the cruisers and gunboats and auxiliaries.

Between 9 and 10 o'clock they all gathered off Point Judith and there was a consultation of commanding officers aboard the flagship Kearsarge. Before this the little Porpoise had gone into Newport under a flag of truce, having on board an officer who was sent to consult Col. Hasbrouck.

After that the fleet lay quiet until nearly 2 o'clock. The entire fighting force of the great battleships, Keokuk, Alabama, Massachusetts and Indiana, the armored cruiser Brooklyn, the Olympia and Montezuma, the monitor Puritan, and the Mayflower and Oregon.

It was five minutes of 2 o'clock when the

Hallway, 381 Broadway, New York.--A49